

**Thoreau Woods
Unitarian Universalist
Church
September 2017**

THE ORACLE

"Conscience is an oracle of the Divinity" - William Ellery Channing

We welcome everyone to our congregation, recognizing no distinction of class, nationality, race, gender, or sexual orientation.

We now have child care beginning at 9:15 AM until the end of the Sunday morning service.

Month September 2017

Sunday, September 3, 2017

Rabbi Neal Katz

"Praying With Your Feet: A Simple Test of Moral Courage"

Rabbi Neal Katz has served as the rabbi of Congregation Beth El in Tyler, TX since his ordination from HUC-JIR in 2003. Originally from Virginia Beach, VA, Neal attended George Mason University in Fairfax, VA where he received his undergraduate degree in political science and did graduate work in counseling. Neal has spent about 2½ years in Israel as a student and working with tour groups.

In Tyler, Neal is involved in many non-profit agencies. He is the immediate past board chair of the Hospice of East Texas and the Samaritan Counseling Center of East Texas.

In addition, Neal serves on the Art of Peace – Tyler committee, is chair of the Tyler Ministerial Alliance, serves on the Tyler Chamber of Commerce Board, and is on the statewide Board of the Texas Freedom Network.

Neal enjoys speaking to many different church and civic groups and is an adjunct teacher at



UT Tyler, where he teaches an “Introduction to Judaism” course.

Neal is also a musician, with 4 solo CDs to his name. He has also been involved in numerous other CD projects and musical productions.

Sunday, September 10, 2017

Jordi Baizan

" “ We Grew Up Together – Learnings From a 26-year Marriage”

Jordi Baizan is a first generation American and native Texan songwriter. He is multicultural, born in Houston to Spanish and Cuban parents, and married to Carmen who hails from Mexico. Jordi is also a multi-tasker, writing songs and managing his flourishing music career in the same home-office where he runs his small business, which helped he and Carmen raise their two girls and two boys. Now that the kids are away at college and beyond, the empty nest at home has provided Jordi the opportunity to take his music on the road. In May of 2017, he released his first record as a solo artist. This record is appropriately named *Like the First Time*, and some of the songs on it have enabled Jordi to be recognized by two prestigious Texas songwriting competitions, the Grassy Hill Kerrville New Folk Songwriting Competition (Regional Ballad Tree performer) and the Songwriter Serenade Competition (Semifinalist). With the support of dedicated fans, Jordi is taking to the road to humbly bring to each listener a sense of joy, adventure, gratitude, and respect for our common humanity.



Sermon Summary:

Using his songs and the stories behind them, Jordi shares what he has learned about the adventure of life through a long-term committed relationship.

Sunday, September 17, 2017

This Fellowship Sunday, we will celebrate a Water Communion.

You are warmly invited to join us to celebrate our annual Water Communion. The Water Communion ceremony was developed to recognize the unique gifts we each bring to the spiritual community we shape together. Please bring with you a small cup of water from a place of significance to service to place in our common bowl. The water could be from as close as your home tap or as far away as a place you have recently traveled. It doesn't matter so much as to where the water comes, what matters most is that it comes from YOU! We will also have water available.



Sunday, September 24, 2017

Michael Braunfield

"Seeking Truth in a Post-Truth World"

I often describe myself as a topical songwriter as opposed to a protest singer. I have no desire to lecture people and scold them into action. People are too smart for that and can decide where they stand on the issues themselves. There is truth in this age of "fake news," science deniers and biased social media posts. And it



matters. As a writer, I delve into another's world to discover their truth. This, in turn, instills empathy. Similarly, empathy can lead to the truth. This process works on a much broader level. In this time of deep division, just imagine what we could accomplish by listening to one another instead of shouting at each other.

Michael Braunfield is, first and foremost, a storyteller. His songs capture the everyday triumphs and struggles of ordinary people. His characters-- though trapped in the particular circumstances of their own lives-- appeal to a universal audience. Michael was welcomed into the Writers' Night Family at the Bluebird Cafe in 2014 and in 2016 he was named a finalist in the Grassy Hill Kerrville New Folk Competition. From sold out listening rooms to festivals, Michael is delighting old fans and willing over new audiences at every stop.

*****VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES*****

Sunday Morning Programs If you are willing to be the meeting leader, guest speaker, or read a story for all ages, please contact Pam Johnson or email info@twuuc.org

Building and Grounds If you would like to help maintain the building and/or grounds, please contact Paul Culp at culp@shsu.edu

Coffeehouse If you would like to help with the coffeehouse, please contact Pam Johnson via email at pammoon41@aim.com or call James at 936-661-6332 We need help with admission table, kitchen, setup and teardown during the event, as well as bakers

Membersio/Outreach Committee--We still need volunteers to handle a more organized way of greeting people, providing assistance to members who are ill, and outreach to the community.



Thoreau Woods Coffeehouse



Michael Braunfeld

with John Guedry & Jon Hall opening



Saturday, September 23, 2017 @ 7 pm

Doors open 6:30

Michael Braunfeld is, first and foremost, a storyteller. His songs capture the everyday triumphs and struggles of ordinary people. His characters – though trapped in the particular circumstances of their own lives – appeal to a universal audience. Michael was welcomed into the Writers' Night Family at The Bluebird Cafe in 2014 and in 2016 he was named a finalist in the Grassy Hill Kerrville New Folk Competition. From sold out listening rooms to festivals, Michael is delighting old fans and winning over new audiences at every stop. Whether addressing topical issues or sharing personal stories that often leave his audiences feeling that he has somehow, in some way, invaded their privacy, Michael's performances combine a powerful guitar style with a seemingly endless supply of urgency. And he has a pretty sneaky sense of humor too. He has played at many prestigious venues such as Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, Northeast Regional Folk Alliance, Bluebird Café, Southwest Regional Folk Alliance, Grassy Hill, Kerrville Folk Festival (New Folk Finalist), and was nominated for Best Folk Song (Over There) and Best Roots/Americana Song (Linden Street) by the WSTW Homey Awards.

John Guedry is a local resident, has opened before, and is a frequent audience member of the coffeehouse. He started writing songs during the 1970's. He has played small venues with groups and solo, off & on for the last thirty plus years. A few years ago, with help from friends, he created a recording of some of the songs he has written through the years. His styles of music are Americana, folk, oldtime, bluegrass, and acoustic blues. He will be accompanied by Jon Hall.

Suggested donation:

\$15, \$10 students/seniors

For more information visit website

twuuc.org/Coffeehouse.html

or call (936) 661-6332

144 E. Mosley Lane, Huntsville, TX

From I-45S: Take exit 112, go north on Hwy. 75 (Sam Houston Ave.). Shortly after you pass Southwood Dr., you will take a right on E. Mosley Lane. From I-45N: Take exit 114, go east on FM 1374 (Montgomery Rd.) to Hwy. 75 (Sam Houston Ave.). Go right. After you pass junction Hwy 19, go .8 mile and take a left on E. Mosley Lane. The church is the last building on the right.

Upcoming Concerts:

October 21: Laura Marie and Adrienne Z

November 18: Flagship Romance with Keith Rea opening

BOOK REVIEWS BY ANN STAPLES

YOU WILL NOT HAVE MY HATE by Antoine Leiris
Heartbreaking. His wife was killed at the Batalan Theatre attack in Paris leaving him with profound grief and a 17-month old son.

NIGHT WITCHES: THE UNTOLD STORY OF SOVIET WOMEN IN COMBAT by Bruce Myers 1981. A wonderful story of women pilots in combat in WW II.

GEOGRAPHY OF GENIUS-- A SEARCH FOR THE WORLD'S MOST CREATIVE PLACES FROM ANCIENT ATHENS TO SILICON VALLEY by Eric Weiner An interesting discussion on individual places and how and why genius comes together in one place

NORSE MYTHOLOGY by Neil Gaiman Wonderfully written tales.

THE NATURE FIX: WHY NATURE MAKES US HEALTHIER, HAPPIER, AND MORE CREATIVE by Florence Williams.

The Chamber of Commerce website has an excellent community calendar:
<http://huntsvilletx.chambermaster.com/events/>.

CONTACT US

Church Location

144 East Mosley Lane

Huntsville TX 77340

Off HWY 75 South

Turn left on Mosley Lane approximately 1 mile south of McCoy's

Phone: (936) 439-9505

Email: info@twuuc.org

Website: www.twuuc.org

Facebook: TWUUC and Thoreau Woods Coffeehouse

Mailing Address:

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OFFICERS

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Webmaster: Pam Johnson



LEARN MORE

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